



Special Edition Newsletter – July 2018

Bringing community rail to new lines

A special edition of Sussex Community Rail Partnership's newsletter celebrates two new community rail lines in 2018 – the West Coastway from Hove to Angmering, and the North Downs Line, now extended from Guildford to Reading.

SCRP and Southern launch community rail on the West Coastway



A new Community Rail Partnership was launched on Friday 22nd June for the busy West Coastway line from Hove to Angmering, passing through Worthing and Adur. The Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRP) in partnership with train operating company Southern, will work with community groups, schools, businesses and local action groups to enhance railway stations and support local communities along the line.

Shoreham Port Authority hosted the launch (*above*), which brought together local authorities, station managers, and many community groups. Community rail is already active along the line. Shoreham Port's community team has partnered Southwick station, working with the community to create poetry displays, as well as local youth group Concordia to install eye-catching artwork.



Angmering has just signed a station partnership agreement bringing together Georgian Gardens school and four other community groups to create an art / gardening display at the station (*left*). Hawthorn School in Durrington also signed up as station partners, producing owl-themed art displays.

Tim Barkley, Chairman of SCRP Ltd, said, "SCRP is honoured to have the opportunity to bring community rail to this new line. We are very much looking forward to working with communities, Southern and Network Rail staff towards a better, more sustainable local railway between Angmering and Hove.

“We welcome approaches from local community groups, schools, businesses and other potential partners who have ideas about improving their stations.”

Andy Harrowell, Southern’s Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, said: “We are pleased to be working with SCRCP to set up this new community rail partnership between Hove and Angmering.

“Together with SCRCP we’ve been able to introduce art and gardening partnerships at many stations across their existing lines, jointly providing try the train events, increasing the confidence of groups with disabilities with rail travel, as well as delivering our award-winning Go-Learn education programme to over 17,000 youngsters.”

Rowena Tyler and Catherine Simmons are joint line officers on the Angmering-Hove line and welcome approaches from local community groups, schools and other potential partners.

North Downs Line extended from Guildford to Reading

SCRCP has worked on the North Downs line from Gatwick to Guildford over the last year, and we are now proud to extend community rail on the line as far as Reading, in partnership with Great Western Railway (GWR).

A launch for the extension of the line was held on 5th July at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford. The celebration was attended by Mark Hopwood, CEO of Great Western Railway (*right*), Network Rail, Southwestern Rail, the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, and many community partners.



During 2017, SCRCP worked with communities from Reigate to Guildford on projects ranging from new signage to the North Downs Way, a clear-up around Chilworth station, and a study with Network Rail on reducing risks around level crossings, which is a step on the way towards the anticipated 3rd train per hour on the line.



Line officer David Daniels (*left*) is planning to add to recent improvements at Dorking Deepdene station, with a community garden. Together with Surrey Hills AONB, beautiful information boards guiding visitors to the North Downs Way and other walking and cycling routes, have been designed and will soon be installed.

David welcomes discussions with schools, community groups and other potential station partners around the railway line from Guildford to Reading. He said,

“GWR is fully committed to Community Rail and they have proved to be a capable and co-operative partner in the 10 months since the North Downs Line Community Rail Partnership commenced. It has been great to work with local parishes, councils and groups along the line who have embraced the idea of Community Rail and combined to work on many projects, such as North Downs Way signage, Chilworth crossing refurbishment and Dorking artwork.

“Extending the Partnership to include stations to the west of Guildford will bring in another, varied list of potential partners and I look forward to working with them.”